

NSC BRIEFING

NORTH AFRICA

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29 October 1958

25X1

- I. In Algeria, rebels' rejection of De Gaulle's invitation to come to France and arrange ceasefire probably dictated by extremist military wing of leadership in attempt retain command.

25X6

A.

B.

some rebel troops are demoralized

and that confusion in the ranks is being incited by rumors that external leaders selling out troops by arranging ceasefire.

- C. Rebel premier Abbas in rejecting invitation proposed negotiations in neutral country possibly in bid to keep door open.

1. Abbas made clear rebels would raise political issues if such meeting were arranged but has soft-pedalled independence demand since 26 September statement that rebels ready to negotiate.

- II. In Tunisia, greatest immediate threat is possibility that disorganized and frustrated FLN troops based there might, at Nasir's instructions, turn against Bourguiba.

- III. In Morocco, leftist pressure continues and may culminate in long-anticipated government reorganization.